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Chairperson: Mr. Mohamed Cherif Diallo (Vice-Chairperson) . . . . . (Guinea)

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In the absence of Mr. Park In-kook (Republic of Korea), Mr. Mohamed Cherif Diallo (Guinea), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 58: Operational activities for development (*continued*) (A/64/75-E/2009/59, A/64/375-E/2009/103, A/64/375/Corr.1-E/2009/103/Corr.1 and A/64/375/Add.1-E/2009/103/Add.1)

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system (*continued*) (A/64/164)

(b) South-South cooperation for development (*continued*) (A/64/321)

1. **Mr. Gunda** (Malawi), speaking on behalf of Malawi, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Norway, Rwanda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United Republic of Tanzania, commended the role the United Nations had played in responding to the multiple crises the world faced and encouraged donors to meet their aid commitments towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), but noted that increased and improved funding was only part of the solution. The United Nations development system could still be made more effective and efficient. As the stocktaking exercise from the "Delivering as One" pilot initiative had shown, reforms were helping the United Nations to become more relevant and responsive to the needs of programme countries. The Organization's Headquarters still needed to catch up, however. Countries that chose to deliver as one must be able to approve their plans through a single decision, and that would require structural changes. The stocktaking exercise had also shown a need to reduce country teams' reporting burden, to ensure that the United Nations funding system was made responsive to the needs of recipient countries, and to promote coherence. He looked forward to the outcome of the meeting to be held in Kigali to review the pilot initiative, as the country-led evaluations and independent evaluation would provide important new evidence of progress made and challenges ahead, and help drive the reform process forward.

2. The Resident Coordinator system should be further strengthened, as mandated under the triennial comprehensive policy review; every United Nations agency needed to implement the proposals in that respect. It was also critical to appoint the right people with the right skills to their posts in time, especially in countries just emerging from conflict. On business practice harmonization, he called for swift implementation of the plan of action of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).

3. **Mr. António** (Mozambique), speaking on behalf of the countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that despite the positive trends in contributions for United Nations operational activities, more predictable and adequate funding for the United Nations system for development was needed, particularly for core operational programmes. In that regard, in preparation for the 2010 high-level meeting to review progress on the MDGs, immediate steps and concrete action were needed to boost official development assistance. SADC called upon developed countries that had not yet done so to make concrete efforts to reach the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product (GNP) as official development assistance (ODA) to developing countries and the Brussels Programme of Action target of 0.15 to 0.2 per cent to the least developed countries.

4. South-South cooperation was an important vehicle for technology transfer and capacity-building, but was not a substitute for North-South cooperation, and should be reinforced through triangular cooperation. While the efforts of the United Nations in disaster response were commendable, a review was needed to improve their coordination, efficiency and effectiveness, bearing in mind that the various United Nations agencies had different roles to play in disaster management and recovery. There was still room for improvement in both programming and funding modalities for United Nations humanitarian assistance. The Consolidated Appeals Process monitored by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs was a fundamental tool for resource mobilization for emerging crises, and a strategic and planning instrument for future crises.

5. SADC hoped that the recommendation by the Secretary-General to build a comprehensive and sustainable financial data and reporting system for operational activities for development could help bring greater coherence and synergy among United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and help harmonize contributions of the United Nations system and the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

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Efforts towards standardizing data and statistical practices should also be strengthened and combined with the current reform process aimed at bringing greater coherence to the United Nations system, in particular at the country level. SADC fully endorsed the Secretary General's recommendations towards a comprehensive and sustainable United Nations system-wide financial data and reporting system.

6. **Mr. Liu Zhenmin** (China) said that in order to address the severe difficulties and challenges in the light of the international financial crisis and the deteriorating development environment of developing countries, top priority must be given to poverty reduction and development. Development agencies should help developing countries enhance their own development capacity and explore models of development best suited to their national situations. Furthermore, fund-raising efforts must be rapidly increased so as to provide the United Nations development system with adequate, stable and predictable core resources. The recent decline in core resources had weakened the supervisory role of the governing bodies of the funds and programmes. Thus, developed countries needed to fulfil their commitment of allocating 0.7 per cent of their GNI as ODA and increase contributions to those core resources. Also, capacity-building in developing countries must be central to United Nations development activities. In that respect, developed countries should lower artificial barriers to technology transfer, while recipient Governments should play a greater coordinating role in designing the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and formulate capacity-building plans according to the specific needs and conditions of recipient countries, rather than focusing solely on good governance or combating corruption at the expense of more urgent issues such as poverty reduction and development.

7. United Nations funds, programmes and agencies should also provide additional resources to developing countries for climate change adaptation, and continue to explore effective mechanisms for technology transfer and dissemination. Developing countries must be able to afford and have access to climate and environmentally friendly technologies. Reform of operational activities for development should take into account the specific conditions and needs of recipient countries rather than impose a one-size-fits-all model.

8. The United Nations should also strengthen its support for South-South cooperation and the capacity-building of the relevant mechanisms and agencies, and adopt pragmatic measures to enhance the role of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation and Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.

9. China would continue in its efforts to strengthen unity and cooperation with other developing countries. It remained firmly committed to implementation of all initiatives to assist Africa and would endeavour to increase aid to Africa, reduce or write off its debts and expand trade with and investment in the continent.

10. **Mr. Matwang'a** (Kenya) stressed the importance of the triennial comprehensive policy review as a guiding framework for operational activities and welcomed the recent reforms of the United Nations operational activities to ensure improved coordination, coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of funding and other programme activities. The international community must provide the United Nations with adequate funding to enable it to perform its operational functions effectively, especially since the world economic and financial crisis had increased the need for it to be involved in economic and financial decision-making. Operational activities should address the critical challenges facing developing countries, such as poverty eradication and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, in line with countries' national development strategies and plans.

11. South-South cooperation was an important mechanism for promoting the development of countries, and was complementary to North-South interaction. Development partners and the United Nations played a significant role in promoting and nurturing that cooperation. Kenya fully supported the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report (A/64/321), including those on renewal of the international community's commitments to South-South and triangular cooperation, increased multilateral support for South-South-based development and strengthened inter-agency collaboration, and enhanced sharing of information and experience on innovative partnerships, facilities and funding among partners. Progress in those areas required capacity-building and strengthening of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation. He also stressed the importance of the High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation that his country would be hosting in December 2009.

12. **Mr. Sergeev** (Belarus) said that a key principle of operational activities for development was constructive

dialogue which took account of the differing approaches of recipient countries: discrimination based upon subjective assessments of their policies was unacceptable. The work to reduce administrative costs, while commendable, should be accompanied by an increase in donor contributions to the United Nations budget for development. Operational activities must be improved from the bottom up.

13. Middle-income countries were crucial to ending the economic crisis. There were more than 100 such countries, and they represented enormous economic potential and growth opportunities. Recovery and the achievement of the MDGs largely depended on them. It was time to discuss ways in which the operational agencies of the United Nations could cooperate with those countries to resolve their special socio-economic problems. Successful work with such countries would provide greater opportunities for the economic growth of poor countries and would help to form a sustainable global economic system. The issue should be discussed at a meeting of the expanded Regional Directors' Group.

14. **Mr. Guillén Beker** (Peru) said that while the globalized economy had some negative consequences, mainly for the poorest countries, it also created opportunities, such as the possibility to establish economic and commercial exchange among countries of the South. South-South cooperation must be complementary to rather than substituted by North-South cooperation; one example of such cooperation was the Summit of South American and Arab Countries which had gathered the heads of State and of Government of those countries in Qatar in March 2009 and would be hosted by Peru in 2011. Two key recommendations in the Secretary-General's report (A/64/321) were those for a renewed commitment of support to South-South development and for consistent and reliable financing. He reiterated the concern noted by the representative of the Rio Group with regard to implementation of recommendation 17 in the Secretary-General's report on the Activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/64/164) and looked forward to the upcoming High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation which would take place in Nairobi, Kenya.

15. **Ms. Isler** (Switzerland) said that while there had been promising developments with regard to United Nations operational activities for development, much remained to be done. United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies must consiste and coherently continue to take appropriate action the implementation of the quadrennial comprehen policy review and report back to their gover bodies. In that regard, Switzerland welcomed the mandate given to the Secretary-General, through United Nations Development Group and its mem organizations, to develop a standard operational for of reporting that would allow resident coordinator properly fulfil the leadership role in reporting for United Nations country team to national authoritie progress made against UNDAF. That would strengthen the accountability of the United Nat system vis-à-vis partner Governments and red transaction costs, and should be implemented as s as possible in order to help strengthen the role Resident Coordinator.

16. United Nations funds, programmes specialized agencies should explore sources financing to support the implementation of the Pla Action for the Harmonization of Business Practice the United Nations System, developed by the H level Committee on Management of the C Executive Board, including through discussions their respective governing bodies on the allocation funds through their support budgets.

17. Furthermore, countries wishing to present d joint country programmes on a voluntary basis to Economic and Social Council should be encourage do so. Those draft programmes could be discusse the operational segment and feedback provided to Government and the United Nations country t instead of discussing the separate draft programme each of the boards. Subsequently, the finalized j country programmes could be adopted on non-objection basis by the respective executive boa and governing councils, as was common practice, t respecting the legal independence of those gover bodies. She encouraged the Secretary-General include that proposal in his report to the Gen Assembly at the current session, as requested under recently adopted resolution on system-wide coheren

18. Her delegation welcomed in particular provision of Economic and Social Council resolu 2009/1 requesting further analysis of the current situa and perspectives for core and non-core funding for United Nations system and reiterated Switzerla support for the quadrennial comprehensive po review and the commitment of the Secretariat

further improve reporting and make that a critical document in helping Member States to make informed decisions. She also reiterated her country's recognition of the important role of South-South cooperation in the development of developing countries and looked forward to fruitful discussions in Nairobi.

19. **Ms. Kızıltan** (Turkey) said that her delegation was pleased to note that the United Nations agencies were increasingly adopting South-South approaches in their policies, particularly in dealing with transnational development challenges, since South-South cooperation was an important component towards achieving a global partnership for development. That cooperation should extend beyond financial aid to include trade, the transfer of know-how and new technologies, expertise and experiences, on a demand-driven basis. South-South and triangular partnerships should also help strengthen vulnerable economies through financial aid and by strengthening their capacity on the ground. As an emerging donor country, Turkey attached utmost importance to strengthening its multilateral and bilateral technical and economic cooperation with developing countries in order to increase the effectiveness of its development assistance. When delivering assistance to partner countries, Turkey shared its own experience and know-how from its own transformation from a largely agricultural economy to a foreign-trade-oriented and industrialized economy. The Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency was the lead agency coordinating the flow of Turkey's official development assistance. Its activities had initially been aimed at Central Asia, the Caucasus and the Balkans, but it had recently focused increasingly on assistance to African countries. It cooperated with other bilateral and multilateral donors, facilitating more effective implementation. Her Government was committed to more dynamic South-South cooperation as a complement to North-South cooperation.

20. **Mr. Douangchak** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that, despite the progress in improving system-wide coordination and mobilizing the wider capacities of the United Nations system, his delegation was concerned about the persistent imbalance between core and non-core resources for operational activities for development. Against the backdrop of growing concern about the possible negative impact of the economic crisis on aid and on the funding of the system, there was a need to strengthen collaboration and cooperation in the United Nations system and with donors, the private sector and civil society. Donors should honour their commitments to increase funding for operational activities, especially by providing core resources and increasing the overall level of development aid to assist developing countries, and the least developed countries in particular, in attaining internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. The United Nations system should also improve aid effectiveness through better quality and delivery of aid, a more effective use of resources, a simplified and harmonized operational process, reduced transaction costs and enhanced national ownership.

21. It was important to develop the capacities of United Nations country development teams, and make use of South-South cooperation for programme delivery. The role of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in system-wide coordination should also be enhanced.

22. His Government was working with development partners to implement an aid effectiveness agenda with the framework of the Vientiane Declaration Country Action Plan. Progress had been achieved in Government ownership of the development process and donor alignment with national priorities, but little progress had been made in harmonization and managing for results. In the context of incorporating new commitments, including to increase aid predictability, decrease conditionality, enhance the role of civil society organizations, and address external financing, the action plan would need to be updated. The country team in Laos, which had assisted in developing and implementing the most recent 5-year socio-economic development plan (2006-2010), should continue working in line with the Vientiane Action Plan to help the Government achieve the MDGs by 2015 and to graduate from least developed country status by 2020. His Government strongly supported the "One United Nations" initiative, and commended UNDP for its leading role among United Nations agencies and donor countries in his country.

23. **Ms. Velastegui** (Ecuador) called for the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208; developed countries should endeavour to channel their efforts towards core contributions in order to address the imbalance that existed between core and non-core resources. Ecuador took its responsibility of contributing to processes of common benefit seriously, as was shown by its recent accession

to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and would continue to implement appropriate coordination policies, that many aspects of which were already part of Ecuador's national programme.

24. International instruments and declarations drawn up by developing countries had helped to strengthen South-South cooperation and made it an efficient and essential tool for mobilizing human and economic resources and promoting development, especially in the context of addressing the financial and economic crisis and limited financial resources.

25. Any element to be incorporated into South-South cooperation must first be examined, discussed and accepted by all countries in the South, especially if it involved the setting of conditionalities. His delegation would support all efforts to strengthen South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, but if developed countries did not fulfil their ODA commitments, achievement of the development goals and plans of developing countries would be adversely affected.

26. Ecuador valued the work of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, which could be made much more effective through increased funding. Harmonization and coordination of the United Nations system must also be improved so that its country-level programmes and activities could incorporate modalities for support to South-South cooperation.

27. At the national level, her Government attached importance to the innovative "Yasuni ITT" initiative, aimed at adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change, protecting biodiversity and defending indigenous populations living in voluntary isolation, and keeping fossil fuels in the ground, which it believed could be replicated in other countries of the South.

28. **Ms. Navarro Barro** (Cuba) said that the economic and financial crisis, which posed a major challenge to United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, must not serve as a pretext for developed countries to neglect their commitment to financing for development, particularly with respect to core resources within the United Nations system, which were the bedrock of its operational activities. The continuing imbalance between core and non-core resources must be corrected with a view to meeting the needs of recipient countries in accordance with their national development strategies rather than satisfying the interests of donors. Efforts to rechannel contributions towards core resources should not be conditional on the implementation of supposed reform of operational activities on the basis of ideas, elements and experimental programmes on which no intergovernmental agreement had yet been reached. The Committee should avoid futile debate on elements of system-wide coherence, which was being negotiated separate at the plenary level.

29. The fact that decisions continued to be taken in the framework of inter-agency coordination mechanisms like the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) without adequate prior consideration, evaluation and agreement by Member States, was cause for concern. Transparency and accountability in the work of the Secretariat were essential.

30. South-South cooperation was a priority for Cuba, and one of the fundamental pillars of its foreign policy, as evidenced, for example, by the cooperation services it had rendered in more than 150 countries since 1961 and the scholarship programme it had developed, which had benefited tens of thousands of young people from the developing world. Those efforts had been undertaken despite adverse economic circumstances, caused for the most part by the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States Government for over half a century. South-South cooperation must complement North-South cooperation and must be based on solidarity, complementarity and full respect for the sovereignty of States. Cuba found developed countries' attempts to distort those principles and impose their own conditions on the assistance they provided to countries of the South profoundly unsatisfactory, and categorically rejected that approach to development assistance.

31. **Mr. Srivali** (Thailand) said that a global commitment was a key to maintaining South-South cooperation as a high priority on the international development agenda and ensuring that sufficient resources were allocated. Thailand strongly supported the role of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation in reviewing the progress made in transforming commitment into action. Renewed political commitment was of the utmost importance to the least developed countries, whose development needs required an immediate response from the international community. In that regard, UNDP should be given full support and a broader mandate to help implement development programmes in countries of need, regardless of their domestic political circumstances.

32. Innovative partnerships, including public-private, regional and interregional partnership towards achieving internationally agreed development goals such as the MDGs, should be intensified and directed towards sustainable growth and development. Thailand was committed to South-South and triangular cooperation, as exemplified by numerous demand-driven cooperation programmes it had initiated since 1975, and its ODA had reached 0.18 per cent of GNI in 2007, a ratio comparable to OECD countries. It attached importance to subregional arrangements which had helped it to work with neighbouring countries on key areas such as transport linkages, trade facilitation, agriculture and tourism. On the interregional level, Thailand had been cooperating with several African countries, mostly in the areas of public health and medicine, and had organized several training courses on avian influenza and HIV/AIDS for members of the African Union.

33. Development partnership should extend beyond mere financial assistance to include providing know-how and technology. South-South cooperation was essential to achieving Millennium Development Goal 8 in particular, but should neither replace North-South cooperation nor be limited to intergovernmental relations; the private sector could also be a powerful force in development assistance.

34. More broadly, sharing of knowledge and experience and technology transfer lay at the heart of South-South and triangular cooperation. His delegation commended the efforts of UNDP and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in that connection, and supported the establishment of centres of excellence at the national and regional levels in order to facilitate those processes in such strategic areas as human resources development, agriculture, alternative development, public health and water management.

35. On coordination and coherence, it was crucial to harmonize the aid provided by various development partners while aligning their cooperation assistance with recipient countries' own development objectives. Thailand supported the concept of resident coordinators and urged that they should avoid duplication of efforts and ensure coherence of United Nations operations in each country.

36. **Mr. Nakamura** (Japan) said that country ownership was the key to the sustainability of any development effort, and the United Nations development system should fully support Governments to enhance their national capacity, bearing in mind that the ultimate aim was to help people in need, particularly the most vulnerable. The United Nations development system should listen to and look after people on the ground, while fully respecting national ownership and the sovereignty of Member States. The action taken to achieve the MDGs by 2015 should bring about tangible results in the immediate future. In the context of the global economic crisis and its potential impact on the quantity of aid delivered, the effective delivery of assistance should be pursued more rigorously than ever. Adopting a human security approach was also useful for ensuring tangible results.

37. Gender mainstreaming must be promoted in all areas of United Nations operational activities for development, including planning, implementation and evaluation. The creation of a new gender entity, although a milestone, was not in itself enough to ensure the coherence of operational activities in that area. Efforts must be made to avoid duplication and fragmentation of gender-related operational activities undertaken across various United Nations agencies. The new entity should adopt top-down as well as bottom-up approaches to achieving gender mainstreaming, bearing in mind the lessons learned by the operational agencies at the field level.

38. Japan, which had been a pioneer in supporting South-South cooperation through triangular cooperation and in collaboration with the United Nations agencies, welcomed the expansion of cooperation, for example, among Latin and Caribbean countries and between Asia and Africa. Japan looked forward to hearing examples of the cost effectiveness of South-South cooperation at the upcoming High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation.

39. **Mr. Yoseph** (Ethiopia) called upon the United Nations development entities to strengthen the capacities of public institutions and focal points in programme countries. The Secretary-General's report analysing the financing of operational activities brought to light concern over resource levels and trends within the United Nations system. For developing countries to achieve their goals, funding must be more predictable and sustainable. However, most United Nations entities had consistently received less than 30 per cent of their requirements each year, and core resources had not grown significantly since 2003.

40. In that regard, the decision of the Government of Belgium to redirect its contributions to the United Nations and other multilateral organizations to fund core resources exclusively was greatly appreciated. Other countries were urged to emulate that approach. Development partners should eliminate the practice of earmarking funds. Thanks went to those countries which were not members of OECD and which had contributed to United Nations operational activities for development.

41. The most recent example of development cooperation between the United Nations and Ethiopia, one of the largest recipients of United Nations development assistance, was the Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty. For the strongest impact and concrete results, United Nations activities must be fully synchronized and harmonized with nationally owned development programmes. Programme deliveries within UNDAF must also be harmonized and the fullest possible use must be made of national expertise and institutions in recipient countries.

42. **Mr. Maksimychev** (Russian Federation) said that the decision to include in the Secretary-General's reports to the Economic and Social Council information on implementing the management and accountability framework for the United Nations development and resident coordinator system, including the "functional firewall" of the resident coordinator system, and on preparation of a universal comprehensive assessment of that system at the Council's substantive session in 2012, would be very important for strengthening the effectiveness and accountability of the resident coordinator system. If, as requested, the United Nations funds and programmes reflected in their annual reports to the Council their specific contribution and difficulties they had experienced in implementing the management and accountability framework for resident coordinators, that would also improve the quality of those reports.

43. In regard to the issue of "One United Nations", unity among countries had still not been achieved. It would be premature to consider Delivering as One a universal model for the functioning of the United Nations in countries. A universal review of the pilot projects was needed.

44. The Russian Federation had some concerns regarding General Assembly resolution 63/311, on system-wide coherence, and had reserved its position on a number of provisions. Management reform need not focus solely on intergovernmental bodies. Effectiveness and transparency in the work of the secretariats and intersecretariat coordinating bodies were no less important. Continued consultations on system-wide coordination should not replace the comprehensive review of operational activity.

45. With respect to South-South cooperation, his delegation considered solidarity among the countries of the South to be of key importance, and agreed with them that such cooperation was complementary to North-South cooperation and other traditional forms of development assistance.

46. **Mr. Shin** Boonam (Republic of Korea) said that the consistent growth in contributions to the United Nations system for operational activities was encouraging. Core resources were the bedrock of operational activities, and predictable funding must be ensured. The success of the Delivering as One pilot programmes would have a positive effect on the core funding trend. Pooled funding mechanisms, including multi-donor trust funds and thematic funds, could be complementary to core funding. In the next report, expenditures should be included by sector or theme of major agency. Following the MDG review conference to be held in 2010, struggling sectors would be prominent.

47. In the context of expanding South-South cooperation, which was particularly meaningful because it brought not only additional resources but innovative approaches, there were concerns about the lack of coordination and increased cost of development cooperation following the active roles of emerging economies and donors who were not members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee. The United Nations system should continue to monitor South-South cooperation and provide guidance to ensure that it was well coordinated to maximize development effectiveness.

48. **Mr. Benfreha** (Algeria) said that operational activities for development should be carried out in accordance with the policies, goals and priorities of the recipient countries. National ownership should be fostered through the inclusive participation of the national authorities and entities in development projects and programmes.

49. The efforts under way to simplify delivery procedures must be stepped up in order to meet developing countries' expectations, drawing in the process on all the capabilities of the United Nations system. The universality and neutrality of core

resources meant that they must constitute the foundation of operational activities.

50. South-South cooperation must continue to be guided by the principle of international solidarity, with emphasis on the principles enshrined in the Yamoussoukro Consensus, and the United Nations system should lend its full support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

51. **Mr. Al-Ansari** (Qatar) said that operational activities for development were central to the attainment of social and economic well-being and a sound relationship between man and his environment. It was also an important complement to triangular cooperation, in which context civil society groups from the South and the North must join forces in dealing with such global challenges as climate change.

52. The participation of developing countries in world trade needed to be strengthened by eliminating all barriers that prevented them from marketing their commodities on an equal footing with the developed countries. That would reduce their dependence on ODA. It was important for policymakers to address the growing problems of land degradation, desertification and to promote land reform. Speedy action must be taken to accelerate investment in agriculture.

53. Qatar was one of the few countries which had fulfilled its ODA commitments. The Government of Qatar had established the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance, which would support South-South cooperation and help to achieve the goals of economic and social development. In March 2009, Qatar had hosted the second Arab-South American Summit, which had fostered economic, technical and political cooperation. Qatar also presided over the United Nations High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation.

54. **Mr. Arifi** (Morocco) said that a coordinated response was needed to multiple challenges, including those relating to food, energy, financing and climate, that endangered the attainment of the MDGs by the year 2015. Apart from increased human and financial resources, better targeting and coordination at the field level of the work of the United Nations and other agencies, including the Bretton Woods institutions, were required. The resident coordinators had an important role to play in that connection.

55. His delegation supported the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit on national execution, and welcomed the related comments of the Secretary-General and the heads of the specialized agencies. The country programme action plans for the period 2007-2011 permitted better alignment of the United Nations Development Group's programmes with national priorities and policies. However, coordination of the group's activities continued to suffer from handicaps that limited the scope of the programmes and projects undertaken. As the midterm review of programmes of UNDP and the United Nations Children's Fund approached, action was needed to remedy the lack of coherence in initial programming, through greater coordination at the design phase. UNDP should take the lead in that connection.

56. Strengthening operational activities would require greater human resources. Newly recruited staff, particularly resident coordinators, should have excellent experience and full familiarity with the situation on the ground. Advantage should be taken in that context of the skills available in developing countries. Support must also be provided for strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation.

57. Lastly, his delegation hoped that greater attention would be paid to implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness: its principles of alignment with national policies and priorities, results-oriented management and national ownership were all conducive to greater effectiveness of operational activities.

58. **Mr. Aguiar Patriota** (Brazil) said that the operational activities of the United Nations must continue to prioritize development assistance and poverty eradication. In accordance with national plans and priorities, an employment-led recovery from the economic crisis was called for, in line with the International Labour Organization Decent Work Agenda and the Global Jobs Pact. The United Nations development system required greater transparency and accountability, and a governance structure more inclusive of developing countries. The process for appointing new executive directors of all major specialized agencies, funds and programmes should involve broader consultation. It would be in the interest of the United Nations membership for all nominations to such posts to be subject to confirmation by the General Assembly.

59. Strengthening of operational activities for development called for the full implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. The resident

coordinator system must ensure greater national participation in project formulation and implementation, and should also monitor the implementation at the local level of the relevant decisions approved by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The results of the country pilot exercise needed to be properly evaluated before any attempt was made to replicate them.

60. His delegation reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening cooperation among developing countries in accordance with the principles of solidarity, complementarity, mutual benefit and accountability, which must be at the heart of all South-South cooperation. The newly created Unit for Economic Cooperation and Integration among Developing Countries of UNCTAD should receive a mandate to work towards a more specific conceptual framework to better support and promote South-South cooperation in coordination with other relevant units in the United Nations system and in consultation with Member States.

61. **Mr. Ayub** (Pakistan) said that his delegation welcomed the progress towards the establishment of a composite gender entity. To meet the goal of developing an effective and coherent United Nations development cooperation system responsive to the national development strategies of programme countries, the issue of funding assistance must be meaningfully addressed. Given the impact of the economic crisis, it was particularly important to ensure that development assistance from the United Nations system expanded and that it was adequate.

62. The action taken to enhance country-level coordination by the United Nations system and greater national participation in preparation of United Nations documents was commendable. However, progress was still needed on the optimal use by the United Nations system of the available national expertise and national systems for support services. The range and level of skills and expertise assembled by the United Nations system at the country level should be commensurate with the priorities specified in UNDAF and the joint programme. The resident coordinator system needed to be strengthened and to work within the framework of national ownership and leadership of development processes, reporting to national authorities progress made against UNDAF.

63. Evaluation of the pilot programme of the United Nations Delivering as One should be first and foremost a country-driven process. A second track of evaluation to facilitate intergovernmental consideration of results from pilot countries might also be considered.

64. His Government accorded high priority to South-South cooperation: optimum use must be made of the potential afforded by the increasing significance of the South in the global economy, with a view to eradicating extreme poverty and facilitating the attainment of the MDGs.

65. **Ms. Abdygalieva** (Kazakhstan) said that despite the increased efforts to optimize administrative and management structures, system-wide coherence, coordination mechanisms and tools for mutual accountability and resource mobilization had yet to be developed and put in place.

66. As the 2015 deadline approached, the time had perhaps come to revise and adapt each MDG task and indicator to the new socio-economic realities of recipient States, with a particular focus on rural areas. In the situation of global financial and economic crisis, UNDAF was even more relevant. Her Government would soon start co-financing of the new UNDAF cycle programmes and projects, and in that connection it called upon the United Nations to further strengthen efforts to simplify business practices and reduce transaction costs in the field. Kazakhstan was seeking expertise on how to strengthen international partnerships for development and diversify predictable, innovative forms of financing. In the context of the Delivering as One initiative, priority projects should be balanced against projects which were less costly but no less important.

67. **Mr. Hamza** (Egypt) said that his country attached great importance to governance and funding of operational activities and to progress in discussions on those subjects. It was very important that the deficiencies which continued to plague the funding of operational activities should be appropriately addressed. Many of the recommendations in the JIU report on national execution were relevant to the issue of governance, and his delegation hoped that substantive action on governance would be achieved soon, in the interests of developing countries. Those interests would also be served by strengthened South-South cooperation.

68. **Mr. Kennedy** (United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)) said that UNIDO was committed to promoting partnerships between developing countries by supporting

institutions in developing countries whose mission was South-South cooperation and by promoting South-South technology and materials transfer. Transfer of housing materials was particularly important, given that developing countries housed 80 per cent of the world's population. UNIDO helped promote regional cooperation in research and development of new or improved building materials by disseminating promising technologies and by developing standards and certification procedures. As an example, new applications had been developed for bamboo, which provided a source of unskilled or semi-skilled employment and revenue for small local enterprises.

69. Access to energy was another important area. Cuba and Zambia had benefited from biomass gasification technologies and solutions from India, while China and Sri Lanka had provided hydropower know-how to several African countries. Agricultural equipment based on South African and Indian technologies was being used in the Sudan to help rebuild the economies of villages devastated by armed conflict and drought, with a resulting increase, at low cost, of more than 50 per cent in the amount of land cultivated.

70. UNIDO had been working with the UNDP Unit for South-South cooperation to develop SS-GATE, a portal aimed at enabling entrepreneurs, civil society organizations and local authorities in developing countries to obtain secure access to technology and finance.

71. **Mr. Zahran** (Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)) said that in its evaluation of national execution, the JIU had taken the Delivering as One pilot into consideration. The independent and unique status of JIU had been recognized most recently by General Assembly resolution 63/272, which had reconfirmed JIU as the only external and independent system-wide inspection, evaluation and investigation body. In its programme of work, JIU had envisaged a meta-evaluation of the Delivering as One programme, to be approved in December for 2010. The meta-evaluation would be carried out in cooperation with the Chief Executives Board and the United Nations Evaluation Group.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.